

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic guide system, comprising:
 - a fixed-location beacon associated with a plurality of landmarks to transmit electronic signals containing descriptive information of each of the landmarks;
 - a client device physically separated from the beacon to receive the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of each of the landmarks when placed by a user within a transmission range of the beacon;
 - a viewing direction sensor that determines viewing direction of the user to cause the client device to provide the user with the descriptive information of one of the landmarks at which the user is looking.
2. The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the fixed-location beacon further comprises
 - a landmark data store that stores the descriptive information of each of the landmarks;
 - a transmitter coupled to the landmark data store to transmit the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks.
3. The electronic guide system of claim 2, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals periodically, constantly, or only when activated by external stimulus.
4. The electronic guide system of claim 2, wherein the fixed-location beacon further comprises an updating module that updates the

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descriptive information stored in the landmark data store.

5. The electronic guide system of claim 2, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals wirelessly or through wire-line, wherein if the transmitter transmits the electronic signals through wire-line, the client device is regarded to be within the transmission range of the beacon when the client device is coupled to the transmitter of the beacon by the wire-line.

6. The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the beacon transmits the descriptive information of the landmarks using multiple communication channels, each channel for transmitting the electronic signals of the descriptive information of one of the landmarks.

7. The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the beacon multiplexes the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks such that the descriptive information of the landmarks is transmitted by a single communication channel.

8. The electronic guide system of claim 1, wherein the viewing direction sensor is located within the client device.

9. An electronic guide system, comprising:
a movable beacon that (1) determines a current location of the movable beacon to obtain descriptive information of each of a plurality of landmarks associated with the current location, and (2) transmits electronic signals containing the descriptive information of each of the landmarks;
a client device physically separated from the beacon to receive the

electronic signals containing the descriptive information of each of the landmarks when placed by a user within a transmission range of the beacon;

a relative location sensor that determines relative location of the client device with respect to the movable beacon to cause the client device to selectively provide the user with the descriptive information of some of the landmarks based on the relative location of the client device.

10. The electronic guide system of claim 9, wherein the movable beacon further comprises

a landmark database that stores location information and the descriptive information of (1) the landmarks associated with the current location of the movable beacon and (2) other landmarks;

a location sensor that senses the current location of the movable beacon, wherein the current location is used to access the landmark database for the descriptive information of the landmarks associated with the current location of the movable beacon;

a transmitter that transmit electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks associated with the current location.

11. The electronic guide system of claim 10, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals periodically, constantly, or only when activated by external stimulus.

12. The electronic guide system of claim 10, wherein the movable beacon further comprises an updating module that updates the descriptive information stored in the landmark database.

• 13. The electronic guide system of claim 10, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals wirelessly or through a wire-line, wherein if the transmitter transmits the electronic signals through a wire-line, the client device is regarded to be within the transmission range of the beacon when the client device is physically coupled to the transmitter of the beacon by the wire-line.

14. The electronic guide system of claim 10, wherein the transmitter transmits the descriptive information of the landmarks using multiple communication channels, each channel for transmitting the electronic signals of the descriptive information of one of the landmarks.

15. The electronic guide system of claim 10, wherein the transmitter multiplexes the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks such that the descriptive information of the landmarks is transmitted by a single communication channel.

16. The electronic guide system of claim 9, wherein the relative location sensor is located within the client device.

17. An electronic guide system, comprising:
a movable beacon that (1) determines a current location of the movable beacon to obtain descriptive information of each of a plurality of landmarks associated with the current location, (2) selects the descriptive information of some of the landmarks based on a relative location of a physical point with respect to the movable beacon, and transmits electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the some of the landmarks;

a client device that receives the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the some of the landmarks when the client device is at the relative location of the physical point.

18. The electronic guide system of claim 17, wherein the movable beacon further comprises

a landmark database that stores location information and the descriptive information of (1) the landmarks associated with the current location and (2) other landmarks;

a location sensor that senses the current location of the movable beacon, wherein the current location is used to access the landmark database for the descriptive information of the landmarks associated with the current location;

a relative location sensor that determines relative location of the client device with respect to the movable beacon to select the descriptive information of some of the landmarks based on the relative location of the client device;

a transmitter that transmit electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the some of the landmarks.

19. The electronic guide system of claim 18, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals periodically, constantly, or only when activated by external stimulus.

20. The electronic guide system of claim 18, wherein the movable beacon further comprises an updating module that updates the descriptive information stored in the landmark database.

21. The electronic guide system of claim 18, wherein the transmitter transmits the electronic signals wirelessly or through a wire-line, wherein if the transmitter transmits the electronic signals through a wire-line, the client device is regarded to be within the transmission range of the beacon when the client device is physically coupled to the transmitter of the beacon by the wire-line.

22. The electronic guide system of claim 18, wherein the transmitter transmits the descriptive information of the landmarks using multiple communication channels, each channel for transmitting the electronic signals of the descriptive information of one of the landmarks.

23. The electronic guide system of claim 18, wherein the transmitter multiplexes the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks such that the descriptive information of the landmarks is transmitted by a single communication channel.

24. An electronic guide system, comprising:

a movable beacon that (1) determines a current location of the movable beacon to obtain descriptive information of each of a plurality of landmarks associated with the current location, and (2) transmits electronic signals containing the descriptive information of each of the landmarks;

a client device physically separated from the beacon to receive the electronic signals containing the descriptive information of each of the landmarks when placed by a user within a transmission range of the beacon;

a viewing direction sensor that determines viewing direction of the user of the client device to cause the client device to provide the user with

the descriptive information of one of the landmarks at which the user is looking.

25. The electronic guide system of claim 24, wherein the movable beacon further comprises

a landmark database that stores location information and the descriptive information of (1) the landmarks associated with the current location of the movable beacon and (2) other landmarks;

a location sensor that senses the current location of the movable beacon, wherein the current location is used to access the landmark database for the descriptive information of the landmarks associated with the current location of the movable beacon;

a transmitter that transmit electronic signals containing the descriptive information of the landmarks associated with the current location.

26. The electronic guide system of claim 24, wherein the viewing direction sensor is located within the client device.

27. The electronic guide system of claim 24, wherein the viewing direction sensor is located external to the client device.